I felt the sun blazing through the one window of the classroom. Sweat ran down my arms and legs, onto the dirt floor. This was even hotter than our August classrooms in the United States. Here in Tanzania, the heat lasts all year. For me, it would take some getting used to.

All around me sat 30 girls in matching blue and white uniforms, packed together in plastic chairs. Many were shy, smiling nervously and giggling, intrigued by the people that had come to visit.

I met the eyes of one girl. Her name was Yusta.

“I got pregnant when I was 15,” said Yusta, sharing her story with me. “For seven months, I hid it from everyone. Then my family and teachers found out. My brothers beat me. My family chased me away.” Yusta was forced out of school. And her pregnancy could have killed her. “I needed a lot of blood. I had to stay at the hospital for weeks.”

It’s hard to imagine going through that—becoming pregnant before finishing high school, being forced to grow up so fast, having to find ways to make money. She wanted to create a better life for her son.

But what about Yusta’s life?

“I heard Pathfinder was holding a training for peer educators,” Yusta said. “I was interested.” Yusta became one of the millions of women and young mothers Pathfinder has reached. They share their experiences, get support, build self-confidence, and learn about their health.

Yusta’s pride showed in her smile; a smile that lifts up other girls. “I went back to my village and started my own support group for young mothers,” said Yusta.

Inspired by Yusta’s commitment to her community, Pathfinder made a commitment to Yusta. In 2016, Pathfinder coordinated with a local school, who gave Yusta a scholarship to continue her studies.

“I returned to school. I convinced my parents to watch my son. Last year, I took my Form 2 (following year 2 of high school) test, and I passed!” Yusta said. “I want to be a doctor, not because I think I’m really smart, but because I want to save more lives and help others.”

There were so many things I wanted to say. I wanted to tell Yusta how smart, capable, and inspiring she is—everything that my great grandparents believed in. But feeling a bit shy, I just smiled.

And Yusta smiled back.
To those filled with hope,

*Opening up a world of opportunities to girls and women is more than an investment. For me, it’s personal.*

I like looking at my mom’s picture when she was a young girl in China. I see determination. I see hope.

Now a scientist and philanthropist, my mom is my inspiration. She showed me the power of women. She and my dad helped me want to unlock the potential of girls everywhere. This is why I joined Pathfinder and why I donate.

*Giving to Pathfinder makes me feel good.*

I believe in what Pathfinder does, making sure millions of women around the world can demand and utilize quality health care in order to thrive.

I find incredible satisfaction in being a part of a ripple effect of change.

*Astonishing things happen together.*

Our work helped millions of women and girls, men and boys gain the ability to make informed choices about their futures. Nearly two million unintended pregnancies were averted through our contraceptive programs last year. Together, as Pathfinder supporters and clients, we span generations and countries, each raising our own voice, whether it be penned in ink or typed out in 144 characters.

As a Pathfinder, I join partners, governments, companies, brothers and sisters across the globe—driving and pushing to a time when all women and girls live a healthy sexual and reproductive life, when all communities thrive.

*Hope is here.*

From Niger to India to the United States, I am inspired by the incredible force of young adults taking action, even in times of grief and sorrow, to make the world a better place. I see millennials socializing philanthropy. Giving is a part of their DNA. I am inspired.

Join me in giving to this work and share in our determination to help girls and women thrive.

In companionship,

*Suzanne Rexing*

Chief Global Engagement Officer
Creating New Paths Forward

If you want to see women and girls empowered, you need to involve entire communities. It’s time to stand by her side.

Thank you for joining our partners around the world. Together, we are transforming communities—to close the gap in unmet need for contraception, reach women and girls on the last mile, and achieve universal health coverage.
Doubling Down on Our Commitment to Adolescents and Youth

Investing in young people reaps a triple dividend of benefits—for today’s adolescents, tomorrow’s adults, and the next generation.

Through our program in Niger, 328,683 women accessed contraception for the first time, and the largest percentage of new users are youth. Community health workers trained by Pathfinder made 8,667 contacts with husbands of adolescent girls, inspiring change in their homes.

Courage Means Investing our Own Resources in Bold New Ways

Today’s unprecedented humanitarian and refugee crisis calls for new solutions that focus on areas where both refugees and host communities share a need for quality reproductive health care.

We have a moral duty to uphold the reproductive rights of those in urgent need. We currently work in five of the top ten refugee hosting countries—DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan, Ethiopia—and bring reproductive health services to displaced communities in Egypt and Burundi. Courage goes where it’s called.
“Courage, resilience, and strength—this is what I see in the faces of the people Pathfinder serves. To our clients, donors, and partners worldwide, I want to thank you so very much for your passion and for placing your trust in us. Because of you, Pathfinder is agile and innovative, discovering bold new ways to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights and transform communities.”

— LOIS QUAM, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL
Making Discoveries as a Community

We convene unique partnerships to solve problems, respond to emerging community needs, and address threats to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In Tanzania, where Pathfinder and our partners combine reproductive health, management of natural resources, and economic opportunities into a single groundbreaking approach, 22,900 people accessed family planning for the first time. 3,457 farmers were trained to adopt more resilient agricultural practices in response to climate change.
Over a decade before Roe v. Wade, when the sale of contraceptives was still prohibited in parts of the United States, Dr. Clarence Gamble and Sarah Gamble formally established Pathfinder, Inc., in 1959.

Five years later, we’re reaching over 12 million contraceptive programs for married girls.

Pathfinder is the first organization to integrate reproductive health in Iran.

In the decades that follow, Pathfinder expands to work in 40 countries on six continents.

With support from Pathfinder, the Jamaican Women’s Bureau establishes one of the first centers for reproductive health in Jamaica.

Pathfinder becomes one of the first reproductive health organizations to recognize and act on the unique sexual and reproductive needs of men who have sex with men.

In 1970, Pathfinder becomes the first organization in the world to distribute non-pneumatic, anti-shock garment—STOP’s, the low-tech garment made of neoprene fabric, to help decrease blood loss and save lives of women who have delivered their babies.

Pathfinder wins a United Nations Population Award for its commitment to providing quality health care free from stigma, discrimination, and violence.

PATHFINDER IS BORN

1959 PATHFINDER IS BORN

1969 PATHFINDER GIVING MARRIED GIRLS A CHOICE

1976 PATHFINDER SUPPORTS THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

1993 PATHFINDER BECOMES AN ADVOCATE FOR URBAN YOUTH

2012 PATHFINDER BECOMES A VISIONARY

2013 PATHFINDER BECOMES A LEADER IN GENDER JUSTICE

2016 PATHFINDER BECOMES A LEADER IN ECONOMIC JUSTICE

2018 PATHFINDER BECOMES A LEADER IN CLIMATE JUSTICE

With your partnership, we can change the course of history.
Transforming Communities

“Before, it’s like we were in slumber. Now we are awake. We cannot go back. Right now, what I am seeing and what our future promises—it is so much better. Thank you for this knowledge.”
—BAVUNAINEKI WILBER, SUSTAINABLE FARMER AND FAMILY PLANNING USER, UGANDA

“Since I started working with Pathfinder, I have learned a lot. At any time, any hour, people can knock on my door. They have questions about condom use or have experienced violence, and I can help. I am the mother of the community. I am strong.”
—CACILDA ZAVALE, TRAINED ACTIVIST, MOZAMBIQUE

“To the people who support me and make my work possible, I want to say thank you. Thank you for this training and the opportunity to change minds in our community.”
—ZOUERA TANKARI, YOUNG MOTHER AND OUTREACH WORKER, NIGER